

## WOMEN BIRDSLAYERS

English Maids and Matrons Practice for Slaughter.

## DEGRADING SPORT IS FASHION

Prepare at Regular School for the Shooting Season, which Opens on August 12, and Many Become Expert Markswomen—Queen Frowns Upon Cruel "Fun" to No Avail.

London, Aug. 3.—Grouse shooting opens on the 12th, and long before that date there will begin an exodus of the London aristocracy to the moorlands of Scotland. Of course, men will predominate, but of late years women have participated in what is called the biggest sport, and some of the biggest bags of a day on the heather are credited to them. Unfortunately, also, they too often participate in the cruel and degrading pastime of trap shooting, when the slaughter of innocent and helpless birds becomes with them an apparent delight.

This form of sport is discouraged by the Queen, but that it is extensively indulged in by the sporting clubs of the country there can be no doubt.

## Shooting at Clay Birds.

It goes without saying that a woman no more than a man can become a first-class shot without an infinite amount of practice and experience, and, moreover, unless she has a natural genius for the gun, a great markswoman cannot be made, no matter how excellent her teaching may be or how frequent her practice and wide her experience. But with proper instruction it is quite possible for the average woman to become a very passable shot, and there is no doubt that the increasing number of reliable markswomen to be seen at all big shoots is due to the fact that more attention is paid to the education of the modern sportsman than was the case ten or twelve years ago.

The West London Shooting School is crowded at this time of the year with women learning the elements of sport with the gun, or practicing for the "12th" at the imitation birds, which afford excellent sport for practice. So excellent, indeed, is this mimic sport that such notable sportsmen as Lord Balfour, of Burleigh, the Duke of Devonshire, and many others come here to get their eye in before the shooting season opens and the real warfare begins.

**Training of Women.**  
The first thing an aspiring sportsman has to learn is to acquire a ready and graceful style. A bad style when once acquired can never be got rid of; it always spoils the accuracy of aim, and what is perhaps worse, from a woman's point of view, is that it makes her look anything but graceful.

The correct method of holding the gun, bringing it to the shoulder and taking aim have all to be studied carefully and mastered before the embryo sportsman advances any further in her sporting education.

After these initiatory lessons have been thoroughly mastered, the aspiring sportsman can try her hand at knocking over driven grouse, which is shooting of an exceptionally difficult character. The pupil is posted in a grouse butt precisely as she would be on the moors, and the mimic birds come flying toward her at a terrific speed, the flight being rather low, as is usually the case with driven game. In this position she learns how to take approaching shots, and by wheeling quickly round she can practice at the birds as they go whirling past the butts. By the time a sportsman is able to knock over these birds with any degree of certainty she has made considerable headway to becoming quite a passable markswoman, for they are very tricky shooting, and put her skill to a severe test.

**Like Pheasant Shooting Best.**  
Of all classes of sport with the gun, pheasant shooting appeals perhaps more to the average woman than any other, as it involves so little walking exercise compared, at all events, to partridge or grouse shooting.

The method of giving instruction in this sort of sport is to place the pupil some few yards from a high tower representing a hillside, down which the pheasants would come flying in real sport. The clay birds are dispatched from the top of the tower on straight flight through the air, and pass over the heads of the gunners below at a tremendous speed, affording the most realistic sport and splendid practice. Shooting at these clay birds is really exciting, and if aristocratic and women are reported to have succumbed. Cattle are also dying for want of fodder. Famines prevail in many districts, and people have been driven to the extremity of selling their jewelry in order to buy grain.

A swarm of locusts passed over Lucknow yesterday, and the native inhabitants killed as many as they could and ate them.

Owing to the continuation of the drought, 500 Mussulmans at Allahabad spent the day in prayer and fasting.

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## OFFERS AID TO OUIDA

Kindness of Italy Touches Aged Novelist's Heart.

## REFUSES ENGLISH CHARITY

Once Popular Writer Starves Herself by Her Pet Dogs May Be Sumptuously Fed—Driven from Hotels by Inability to Pay Bills and Multiplicity of Animal Companions.

Milan, Aug. 3.—Signor Rava, minister of public instruction, moved to compassion by the details of Ouida's miserable condition, has commissioned Count Brizio, the prefect of Luca, to pay a visit of sympathy and to express Italy's readiness to render her any acceptable assistance. The illustrious novelist, who is now able to leave her bed for a few hours daily, is deeply touched by this act of thoughtfulness on the part of the land she so much loves, though she says she cannot bear the idea of living on charity, for which reason she has already returned donations from England, following on the publicity given to her necessitous state by the press.

Hunted from the hotels of the district, sometimes through inability to settle her bills and sometimes owing to the refusal of the proprietors to tolerate the presence of her numerous animal pets, Ouida has on several occasions been driven to sleep in the open air.

**She Is Almost Blind.**  
Owing to the hardships she has undergone she is now almost wholly blind, the sight of the left eye being gone. She suffers excruciating agony with asthma, rheumatism, and a complication of complaints, but steadfastly declines to see any visitors, particularly physicians, whom she apostrophizes as the "curse of humanity." Ouida sorrows over the fact that of twenty-seven splendid dog companions she possessed in the last century, only three survive to cheer her dying hours. Cheques for small amounts reach her from time to time from admirers in England. She insists, however, on her animals being fed sumptuously, whereas, says Signor Alberto Guidi, recounting his visit in the Florentine paper, *Pieramosca*, she herself economizes to the starvation point.

Her sole nourishment is consomme with bread once a day and fish thrice weekly. Her wardrobe consists of a single change of raiment.

The pathos of the situation is intensified when one recalls that the little out-of-the-way village in which she is now residing is that which, under the name of Santa Rosalia, Ouida made famous in what is perhaps her finest romance, "A Rural Commune."

**HEAT AND HUNGER IN INDIA.**

**Soldiers Die of Apoplexy and Natives Sell Jewels for Bread.**

Lucknow, Aug. 3.—Intense heat prevails throughout upper India, and there is a condition of famine. Everywhere the monsoon is being eagerly awaited. British soldiers in Allahabad and Cawnpore are suffering from apoplexy. Several are reported to have succumbed. Cattle are also dying for want of fodder.

Famine prices prevail in many districts, and people have been driven to the extremity of selling their jewelry in order to buy grain.

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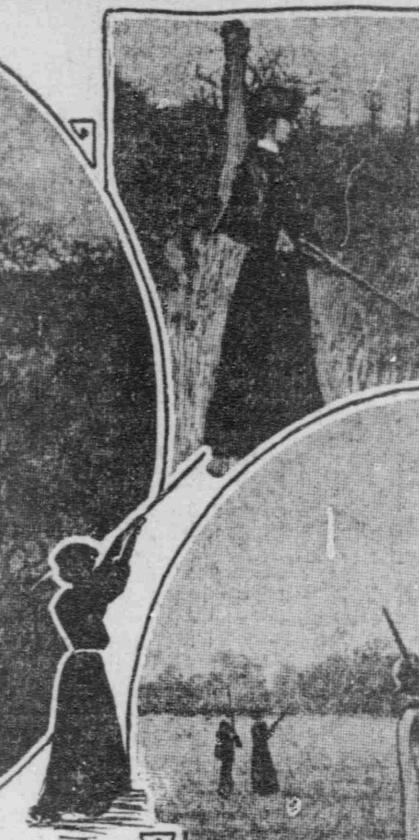
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## KING REVIEWS HUGE FLEET

More Than Two Hundred Ships of War Parade on the Solent.

## Edward and Alexandra Steam

Eleven Miles to View the Long Lines of Fighting Craft.

Portsmouth, England, Aug. 3.—The 200 ships of war constituting Great Britain's home fleet paraded before King Edward and Queen Alexandra to-day on the Solent, and incidentally furnished a magnificent pageant for the opening of the annual Cowes regatta week.

Spread out in seven long lines between the Isle of Wight and the Hampshire shore, this splendid array of vessels, great and small, formed a floating steel city with a population of 3,000 officers and men. Never before have so many British men-of-war been seen together under the control of a single admiral.

From the battle ship *Dreadnought* down to the smallest submarine every vessel was decked from stern to stern with flags. The crews were assembled on deck, and as the King and the Queen on board the royal yacht *Victoria* and *Albert* passed down the lines each ship's company gave a rousing cheer.

For eleven miles up and down the King and Queen steamed between steel walls, their recently organized home guard section of the British navy, and the government and the admiralty are so proud of the assemblage that they departed from the usual rule about visitors and threw the entire fleet open to the critical inspection of the public.

Dotted through the three central lines were less than six barges, headed by the *Dreadnought*, flying the pennant of the commander-in-chief, Vice Admiral Francis C. H. Bridgeman. The five other flag officers were Rear Admirals Harry S. Millett, Frank Finnis, Robert A. J. Montgomerie, George A. Callaghan, and Spencer H. M. Logan.

The splendid naval panorama was completed by scores of pleasure yachts clustered off the ivy-covered walls of the Royal Yacht Squadron's castle at Cowes.

Hosts of pleasure launches and excursion steamers crowded with thousands of the general public, each with its band of music playing, helped to enliven an unusually attractive scene.

**MAY BE CURE FOR CANCER.**

**Berlin Surgeon Experimenting with Blood of Swine.**

Berlin, Aug. 2.—Dr. Bier, principal professor of surgery in Berlin University and late Prof. Bergmann's successor, publishes a remarkable article in the *Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift* regarding experiments conducted on cancer patients in Berlin hospitals.

By injecting the blood of animals cleared of all fibrous matters, and notably the blood of swine, into cancerous sores or in their vicinity, he has succeeded in altering the apparent complexion and giving them a different character.

Under the microscope the results do not appear quite so favorably, but he believes he is on the right track, and that, if he has not been able to heal, he has sensibly approached this end.

Dr. Bier cites cases in which the injection of swine's blood has enabled him to operate where otherwise an operation would have been impossible. In other cases patients have experienced a sensible relief from the process.

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## LOST IN THE BUSH

English Officer Suffers Terribly During Four Days.

## FINALLY SAVED BY NATIVES

Wanders in Mangrove Forest Without Food or Water, Save What He Gets from Swamp and by Catching Rain in His Garments—Sees Light of His Ship—River Bars His Way.

Melbourne, Aug. 3.—A thrilling story of the privations endured by Engineer Commander Ethelbert Silk, of the cruiser *Pyramus*, who was lost for five days in the bush near Port Darwin, is told in the papers to-day.

The *Pyramus* had conveyed Lord Northcote, the governor general, and party to Port Darwin on a tour of inspection. Commander Silk landed with a shooting party, but afterward the commander went alone to search for game. When it was known on the *Pyramus* that he was missing the vessel's searchlight was displayed at night, so as to act as a guide for him.

When dusk set in he found himself hopelessly lost in some mangroves. He obtained some water from a swamp, and during the next two days he continued to wander about.

His position grew more desperate, for besides having had no food, he could not find any water. On the night of the third day rain fell in torrents, and Commander Silk spread his clothes out on the ground and squeezed the water into his mouth.

At night he saw the searchlight of the *Pyramus*, but was unable to go in its direction owing to a wide river, fringed with mangrove swamps, blocking his way.

It was not until the fourth day that he met two black natives, who put him into a canoe, which they pushed across the river, one swimming on either side. They first took him to their house, gave him nourishment, and next day drove him into Port Darwin.

**EIGHTEEN KILLED IN MINE.**

**Explosion of Firetrap at Mittel Bexbach, Prussia.**

Hamburg, Prussia, Aug. 3.—An explosion of firetrap in a mine at Mittel Bexbach, six miles northwest of here, resulted to-day in the killing of eighteen men and the wounding of eleven others.

In the attempt to disperse the crowd several policemen, carabinieri, and citizens were slightly injured.

In the evening the crowd again attempted to hold a demonstration in the Strada del Quattro Canti. Among the rioters were many old jailbirds. The answer to "move on" was answered with hisses and moans and showers of stones, by which some officials and police were hurt. Suddenly two revolver shots were fired from the balcony of a house. The police returned the shots, and the crowd dispersed.

Later a music teacher named Pinturo, aged twenty-five, was killed by a bullet, and several rioters and policemen received bullet wounds. Order was finally re-established.

**TOWN'S POLICEMEN STRIKE.**

**Defeat Gendarmes in Battle and Troops Are Called.**

Vienna, Aug. 2.—A remarkable situation has arisen at Neusandee Galicia, on account of a strike of the municipal police force for higher wages.

The prefect ordered the strikers yesterday to leave the police barracks, but they refused to go. A number of gendarmes were summoned to eject them, and a battle with swords followed.

Several persons were injured on both sides, and the police finally repulsed the gendarmes and barricaded themselves in the barracks.

A company of soldiers was then sent for, and proceeded to invest the barracks with the intention of starving the police out. The besieged policemen accepted the situation philosophically, and amused themselves this afternoon by shooting police secrets from an upper window to crowds of townsmen assembled in the streets.

Thus one policeman announced that he had voted forty-five times in different names and disguises at the recent Galician elections and that in doing so he acted under orders from the authorities.

It is now announced that the Polish Radicals will bring up these revelations in the Reichsrath.

**SIXTEEN MAY BE LOST.**

**German Steamer *Tentonia* Wrecked on Coast of Arabia.**

Muscat, Arabia, Aug. 3.—The German steamship *Tentonia*, from Bussorah, Asiatic Turkey, for Hamburg, was totally wrecked on July 29 near Bas Madrak, on the southeast coast of Arabia.

Sixteen members of the crew are believed to have been lost. They left the wreck in boats and have not since been heard from.

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